

# PRESIDENT BUSH'S BUDGET TARGETS PUBLIC BROADCASTING AGAIN

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Well, it's a new year and again the Bush budget targets public broadcasting. Year after year, they've attempted to chop away at that investment. Year after year Congress rejects it.

This year it is a \$420 million reduction, including \$200 million that's already been allocated for this year. This assault on public broadcasting is not just undermining the digital conversion, the education and public affairs that we have grown to rely on, it's a direct assault at small-town and rural America where it's more expensive to reach and they don't have the donor base to provide it for themselves.

The irony is that San Francisco, New York, Washington and, dare I say, Portland, Oregon will always have public broadcasting. But if this Bush budget is adopted, it's going to decimate public broadcasting in rural and small-town America.

Please join the over 110 members of the bipartisan Public Broadcasting Caucus to again reject this assault on public broadcasting.

## PROTECT AMERICA ACT

(Ms. GRANGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, once again the Protect America Act is set to expire. If the bipartisan Senate FISA bill is not passed in time, our intelligence agency will be blinded to our enemies' plans and required to consult a lawyer before eavesdropping on foreign terrorists.

The House should immediately pass the Senate's bipartisan bill which passed the Senate by a 68-29 vote. Our intelligence community needs a long-term fix in our intelligence laws, not a month-to-month extension.

More importantly, the Senate FISA bill grants liability protection to telecommunications companies that helped the government after September 11. Allowing these companies to be subjected to frivolous lawsuits threatens their cooperation in the future. This could have a crippling effect on America's counterterrorism efforts.

Yesterday, the Democrat majority chose partisan politics in the face of a strong bipartisan solution that directly determines the fate of our intelligence gathering abilities, and the House Democrat leadership failed. The American people have asked for solutions, not political grandstanding.

We should take up the bipartisan Senate FISA bill immediately. This cannot wait until we return from the President's Day recess.

## GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. RUSH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to speak on what I call "The Daily 45."

The Department of Justice reports that on average, every day here in America, 45 people are shot and killed in a fit of revenge, robbery or troubled relationships. These are more than our soldiers who are killed in Iraq and Afghanistan each and every day.

Today I reflect on a story that has captured the hearts and the minds of Chicago area residents. On Saturday, February 2, the day began like any other day for six unsuspecting women. Five of these women, customers and workers at a Lane Bryant clothing store in the southwest suburbs of Chicago, were heartlessly murdered during an apparent midday botched robbery attempt by an assailant wielding a gun.

37-year-old Connie Woolfolk, 42-year-old Rhoda McFarland, 22-year-old Sarah Szafranski, 33-year-old Carrie Hudek Chiuso, and 34-year-old Jennifer Bishop should not be forgotten. Neither should we forget the sixth woman who was shot in the neck, but survived.

When will America say, "Enough is enough"? Stop the killings.

## FISA

(Mr. HOEKSTRA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, what is it that my friends on the other side don't understand about the threat that faces our country today? Have they not seen the reports coming from Iraq where al Qaeda in Iraq has now stated that their objective is to use Iraq to launch attacks against Jerusalem and Israel? Have they not read the reports today about a radical Islamist plot to perhaps assassinate the President of the Philippines? Have they not read about the attacks or the arrests in Denmark of radical Islamists perhaps planning an attack in Denmark?

What is it that you don't understand about the nature of the threat, that this is a global threat that wants to defeat us in Iraq, that wants to destabilize modern Islamic regimes, wants to eliminate the State of Israel, establish the caliphate and reach for the brass ring, which is to attack the United States? Why are you unwilling to put the Senate FISA bill on the floor and give the intelligence community the tools that they need to keep America safe?

## HEALTHY HOSPITALS ACT

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, here's today's grisly toll.

235,626 cases, 11,661 deaths, and a cost of \$5.89 billion. What I'm talking about here are the number of people who obtain and die and the overall cost of infections in our hospitals every year, from MRSA, from pneumonia and other infections. It is time that Congress got serious about this.

In the last 3 years since I've first introduced this bill, 90,000 people have died each year from infections they pick up at hospitals. It is time we pass the Healthy Hospitals Act, H.R. 1174, and work to make sure our hospitals are safer.

## THE LAWLESSNESS SOUTH OF THE BORDER

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Americans are under vicious attack in Mexico. The new threat comes from south of the border in the form of organized and violent Mexican kidnappers.

Last year, 26 San Diego, California residents were kidnapped and held for ransom while traveling to Mexico. Numerous Mexican nationals also were kidnapped. Some victims were murdered. Only a few of the people kidnapped were ever rescued. They reported that they were beaten, tortured and sexually assaulted.

The FBI says that these sophisticated kidnappers are growing in number. The State Department has even issued a travel alert for U.S. citizens living and traveling in Mexico. This new form of terrorism is very disturbing.

While President Calderon is here in the United States lobbying for illegal immigrants to get amnesty, Mexican and U.S. citizens are being victimized in his home country. President Calderon would do well to stay home in lawless Mexico, get his house in order and protect the rights of hundreds of his own people and the U.S. citizens who are being abducted and held for ransom by these outlaws.

And that's just the way it is.

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## IMPERATIVE FISA RENEWAL

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan Protect America Act, a critical anti-terrorist law that closes loopholes in our intelligence laws and protects civil liberties is, once again, about to expire. The House must act today on this critical piece of legislation, which passed the Senate by 68-29. If this Senate bill is not passed in time, our intelligence agencies will be blinded to our enemies' plans and required to consult a lawyer before eavesdropping on foreign terrorists.

Democrats have had more than 6 months to make the Protect America